

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

November 2013

There have been no formal R&D committee meetings for many months so we do not have anything substantial to report. The main CGA R&D meetings are usually held around March where the committee meets to evaluate potential projects to be funded. The committee discuss' the relative merits of the project and how they relate to the strategic plan. Often our discussions lead to some fine tuning of the projects if needed. Many projects put up for funding either miss the relevant target or the budget may not be appropriate. Occasionally CGA emails request to review projects out of session. These requests sometimes may be specific to chemical registration costs and if the continued registration of a chemical is warranted.

Once the R&D committee has submitted their opinion it is the decision of the IAC that actually endorse the levy expenditure, based on all of the various proposals from marketing, export and R&D.

During August the R&D committee was involved in a roundtable meeting with the researchers from most states of Australia. The table was actually square which highlighted the different perspectives that growers and researches sometimes have. The meeting was chaired by Dugald Close from TIA. The main objective was for researchers to present their general ideas to industry and to receive feedback on relevance to industry priorities. The potential for researchers to collaborate and focus their potential projects is greatly enhanced. The process is very worthwhile as it saves time and money in funding proposals and helps to ensure the science gives a good return on grower's levies.

Michael Rouget made an excellent representation about what is needed from a grower's perspective in fruit fly management Australia wide. The proposal was basically for a tiered strategy dependent on fruit fly risk. Michael's common sense approach was a very good idea that created much interest and discussion. As usual with fruit fly issues, implementation of a sensible plan will not be easily achieved.

A vision is the first step to success so thanks must go to Mick for his time and effort. We can only hope that the vision will be realized sooner rather than later.

Overall the meeting was very worthwhile. It was great to see that we have a lot of scientists and organizations in the country that support and are interested in positive outcomes for the cherry industry.

By Steve Chapman